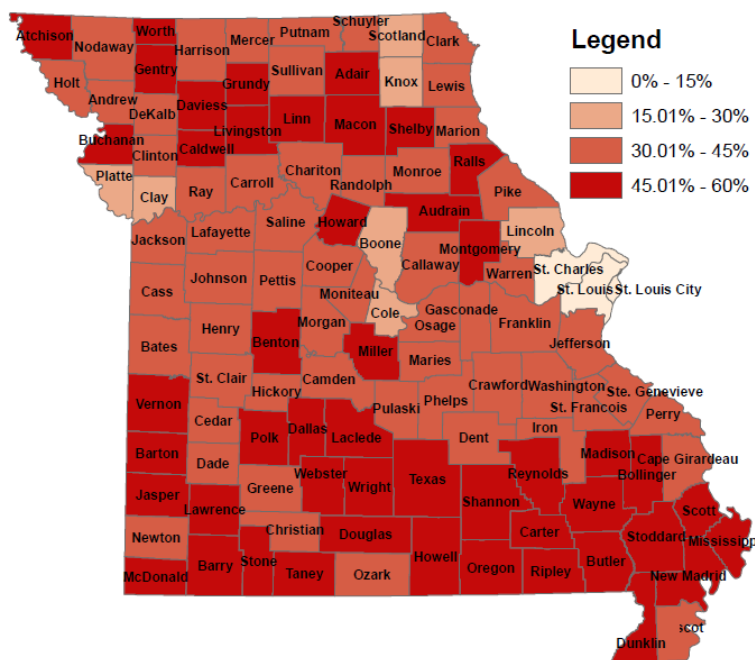


## Methamphetamine—Still a Problem

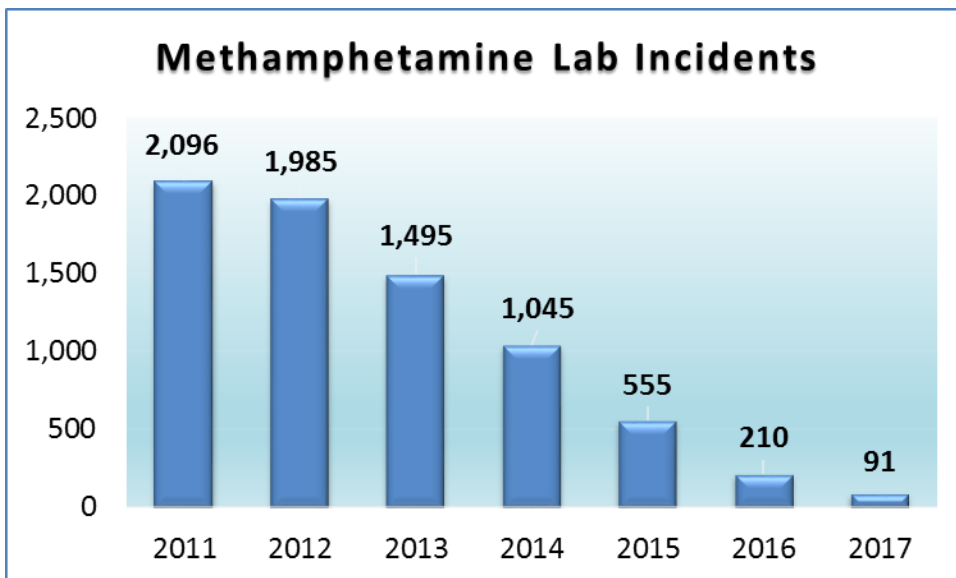
**Methamphetamine in Missouri:** In the early 2000's, Missouri led the country in methamphetamine laboratory incidents. Such labs presented hazardous environmental conditions due to the toxic and volatile chemicals used to make the drug. To counter drug production, a number of communities passed local ordinances to require a prescription for pseudoephedrine, a key ingredient in the manufacturing process. Since 2012, lab incidents have sharply declined and methamphetamine has largely fallen from the headlines. Methamphetamine use, however, has not disappeared. Cheap imports from Mexico have replaced local production.

The number presenting for substance treatment with recent methamphetamine use has continued to increase. Moreover, methamphetamine admissions account for a significant number of treatment admissions throughout the state. The St. Louis metropolitan area is an exception with increased heroin use in the city and surrounding area. For much of the rest of the state, 40 to 50 percent of treatment admissions involve methamphetamine and less than 5 percent involve heroin.

### Percent of Treatment Admissions Involving Methamphetamine



**Methamphetamine Treatment:** Currently, no FDA-approved medications exist for the treatment of methamphetamine use disorders. Detoxification may be necessary to manage acute withdrawal symptoms such as severe depression, psychosis, and intense drug cravings. Treatment generally consists of behavioral therapies. Among methamphetamine admissions to treatment, 38 percent involve IV drug use. IV drug users are at increased risk of infectious diseases including HIV and hepatitis B and C. Education, screening, and testing are important to include in treatment planning.



### Methamphetamine Trends:

- ➔ Lab incidents down 96% (2011-2016).<sup>1</sup>
- ➔ Substance treatment admissions up 64% (2011-2016).<sup>2</sup>
- ➔ Price per pure gram down 56%. Purity up 63% (2007-2015).<sup>3</sup>
- ➔ Overdose deaths involving psychostimulants up 366% (2010-2016).<sup>4</sup>

Data sources: <sup>1</sup>Missouri Department of Public Safety, Missouri State Highway Patrol. 2011-2017 End of Year Methamphetamine Incidents.

<sup>2</sup>Missouri Department of Mental Health, Division of Behavioral Health. Customer Information Management Outcomes and Reporting System.

<sup>3</sup>U.S. Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration. 2016 National Drug Threat Assessment.

<sup>4</sup>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, Multiple Cause of Death 1999-2016 on CDC WONDER.